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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

13 January 1982

MEMORANDUMHonduran Air Force Capabilities

The Honduran Air Force is the best in Central America, but its fifteen Super Mystere fighters are woefully obsolete (see Table I). Furthermore, since the Air Force began its own pilot training program in 1974, it has not been able to provide enough trained pilots to meet requirements. Finally, a shortage of qualified mechanics and technicians would limit the capability for sustained operations. [REDACTED]

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The Air Force is based at four locations, Tegucigalpa, Comayagua, San Pedro Sula, and La Cieba. The airfields have adequate facilities to support the aircraft normally deployed there. [REDACTED]

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The Cuban Air Force is the best equipped in all Latin America, with over 200 MIG fighter aircraft (see Table II). Because of range limitations, however, its most effective

*This memorandum was requested by the Deputy Director of Intelligence. It was prepared by [REDACTED] the Central America Working Group, Middle America/Caribbean Division, Office of African and Latin American Analysis and contains information available as of 13 January 1982. Questions and comments should be addressed to Chief, Middle America/Caribbean Division, OALA, [REDACTED]*

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employment against Honduras would require basing in Nicaragua. Cuba could easily fly a squadron of MIG-21s and perhaps another of MIG-23s to Nicaragua and base them at Sandino, Puerto Cabezas, or Montelimar airfields. The MIG-21s would be far superior to the Super Mysteres in the Honduran inventory in an air superiority role, and the MIG-23s would provide an excellent ground attack capability. 

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